

REMARKS

Amendments

Claims 1-16 are amended to use language in accordance with conventional U.S. practice. These amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims. New claims 17-19 are directed to further aspects of the invention, and are supported throughout the disclosure. See, for example, the original claims.

Election

In response to the Restriction Requirement set forth in the Office Action of November 5, 2003, Applicants hereby elect Group I, i.e., claims 1-7, 9, 11 and 13-16. However, the Restriction is respectfully traversed.

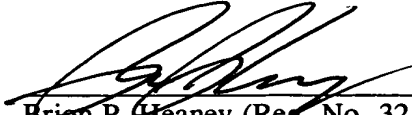
The instant application is a U.S. National Phase application filed pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 371, not a National Application filed under 35 U.S.C. § 111(a). Thus, Unity of Invention practice applies to the instant application, not Restriction practice. See, e.g., MPEP § 1893.03(b). Since the Office Action fails to set forth sufficient basis for restricting the claims pursuant to PCT Rule 13, withdrawal of the Restriction is respectfully respected.

In the Restriction, it is argued that the subject matter of Group I and the subject matter of Group III are related as combination and subcombination, and restriction is based on the assertion that the subcombination has separate utility. However, it is noted that MPEP § 806.05(c) sets forth two requirements for establishing restriction between combination and subcombination, not one requirement. Thus, pursuant to MPEP § 806.05(c), the Examiner must show that both (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination **and** (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement and examination of all pending is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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